



Materials Safety

New Vendor Safety Review Policy

A Message from Rick Kelly



Vendors provide a critical service in support of the Lab. Keep in mind, however, that while most are very concerned about safety, a few may not share our safety culture or have our level of training-- make sure they are aware of all relevant LBNL safety policies and procedures

*—Paul Alivisatos,
Division Director*

Problems with Vendors

The Division has experienced several serious safety incidents involving scientific equipment vendors.

- During the installation of a mercury porosity meter in the Molecular Foundry, a vendor technician made an error that resulted in the spraying of several pounds of elemental mercury into the room under pressure.
- A vendor technician attempted to disassemble an energized vacuum coater, causing a high-voltage short that tripped the circuit breaker.

New Vendor Safety Review

The Division has developed a new safety review and permitting process for all vendor activities in LBNL-based laboratories.

The process works like this:

- Vendor is asked to complete a short “Non-Construction Safety Management Plan Checklist”
The blank document is available on the Division EH&S web site:
http://www.lbl.gov/msd/msd_safety/ehs_policy.html
- The vendor technician and a lab representative meet with Rick Kelly or Paul Johnson to review the safety plan and a permit is issued.

- For service or warranty contracts the permit is valid for 12 months.
- It is possible to include several pieces of equipment serviced by a vendor on one permit.

MSD PI Responsibilities

- Contact Kymba A'Hearn at x6780 to schedule safety review meetings with vendors, preferably a few days in advance.
- Ensure that each vendor coming on site has a valid permit.
- Ensure that only vendor personnel listed on the permit perform hazardous work
- Check on the vendor periodically to verify they are meeting permit requirements.

